



STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #3 SUMMARY

February 11, 2016 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Hiram Morgan Hill Room, Community and Cultural Center

Introduction

Seventeen members of Morgan Hill's Bikeway, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) attended a meeting of this group on February 11, 2016. Also in attendance were City staff members including Chris Ghione, Debbie Vasquez, and David Gittleson and two members of the MIG consulting team, Scott Davidson and Molly Cooney-Mesker. This was the third in a series of four SAG meetings that will happen throughout the planning process.

Stakeholder Organization Presentations

Two SAG members provided presentations about their areas of interest. Kathy Sullivan from the Morgan Hill Historical Society presented about the Villa Mira Monte property. She provided an overview of the property's assets and discussed the potential for the property to serve some of the city's recreation and facility needs. She also reviewed the unmet needs of the property including, capital investment, maintenance and staffing, and proposed a partnership that would help to meet the needs and expand the uses on the site.

Matt Wendt then presented about the local and statewide demand for sand volleyball courts. He proposed the addition of sand volleyball courts to the fields planned for the SE Quadrant. He outlined the benefits of competition courts, stressing that Morgan Hill would have one of the only sand volleyball tournament facilities in northern California.

Facilities

The project team presented the City's existing facilities and several facility options that could be incorporated in Morgan Hill Parks. They then facilitated a large group discussion and recorded input on a wallgraphic. Following is a list of the SAG's consolidated comments.

FACILITY ADDITIONS

SAG members identified new or expanded facilities that could benefit Morgan Hill, including:

- Sand volleyball courts
- Climbing wall
- Batting cage
- Mini-golf
- Field space for flexible uses like unorganized play, relaxation, picnics
- A gazebo/covered area for small group gatherings, music performances, and dancing
- More indoor space for small organizations to meet
- Addition of a park on Monterey
- Reuse of large, empty stores for indoor sports (paintball)

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The SAG also identified facility improvements that would increase use and improve user experiences, including:

- Improved little league facilities
- More restrooms (better operation and longer hours)
- More weight rooms
- Basketball court expansion (particularly to the east)
- Gymnasium with seating capacity to accommodate larger events, like volleyball games and cheer competitions
- Trail connections to:
 - The retention basin by Cochrane
 - Lake Silveira
- More parking at:
 - Nordstrom Park
 - Community and Cultural Center
 - Outdoor sports complex
- Shuttle services to and from Community Park
- Dog agility/rally equipment
- Bathrooms
- Drinking fountains

- Shade
- Attraction elements in neighborhood parks
- Universal design park aspects throughout the park system

Recreation and Programming

The MIG team presented concepts for recreation activities that could be incorporated in Morgan Hill's parks and facilities to meet the needs of the city's diverse residents. Then, meeting attendees split into two small groups for facilitated discussions related to recreation activities. SAG members' comments were recorded on flip charts and are consolidated and summarized below.

ACTIVE RECREATION

SAG members identified several physical/sports activities. Some of these activities are related to expanding existing offerings beyond the CRC into parks and some are ideas for new activities and programs. Those included:

- Yoga in neighborhood parks
- Soccer, including soccer clinics
- Fencing
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Hockey (inline skating)
- Dance classes
- More time dedicated to lap swimming
- Water therapy/exercise
- Parkour
- Bocce ball
- Demonstrations from local studios in underutilized parks (martial arts etc.)
- Model airplane flying

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SAG members discussed potential activities and programs related to education that could be incorporated into Morgan Hill's park and recreation system. Those included:

- Educational programming and elements
 - New branch library near the park
 - Book mobile
 - Bike to books
 - Reading garden – tie to education programs
 - Technology and STEM events in parks
 - Cooking classes
 - Agricultural and environmental education activities
 - Especially related to orchards
 - Partner with master gardener organizations to provide classes or educational resources at community gardens
 - Historic education

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The discussions surfaced a diverse range of activities and interests. Ideas that did not fit into the categories of active recreation or educational activities included:

- More arts and theater programs
 - Concerts in the Community & Cultural Center
- Gaming leagues
- Host special events including:
 - Special interest conventions
 - Wellness events

PROGRAMS FOR TARGETED USER GROUPS

The desire for recreation activities and park spaces to be intergenerational, accessible and widely used was a common theme in the discussions. Meeting participants discussed programming ideas that could meet the needs and interests of age groups that are underrepresented among participants of traditional recreation programs and classes.

- Children
 - Need more recreation for young children (4-5 years)
- Tweens (8-12 year-olds)
 - Mixers downtown

- Nighttime activities
 - Space in downtown parks
- Teens
 - Opportunities for unstructured/drop-in activities
 - Teen center
 - Shuttle for teens
- 25-35 year-olds
 - Adult sports leagues (kickball, dodgeball, Ultimate Frisbee)
 - Activities that do not focus around children
- 50+ year-olds
 - Shuttle that serves seniors that runs on consistent and reliable routes and schedule (partner with senior housing)

The SAG also discussed other program needs including:

- Volunteer opportunities
- Programs for residents on the east side of Hwy. 101, near Live Oak High School
- Adaptive recreation

IV. Next Steps

The project team is developing an online survey that will be used to solicit more detailed input on the ideas and opportunities identified to date. MIG will work with a subcommittee of the PRC to develop and refine this survey. It is anticipated that this survey will be online in March. The next meetings of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (not yet scheduled) and PRC will focus on policy direction that will guide the Master Plan's policy, design and project recommendations.